

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Original) An aqueous composition for the chemical removal of metallic surfacing present on blades of turbines comprising at least hexafluorosilicic acid and phosphoric acid whose final composition corresponds to that which can be obtained by mixing an aqueous solution of hexafluorosilicic acid at about 34% in a quantity varying from 46% to 86% by volume with an aqueous solution of phosphoric acid at about 75% in a quantity varying from 19% to 49% by volume.

2. (Original) The aqueous composition according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous composition also comprises hydrochloric acid in aqueous solution at about 37% added in a quantity substantially varying from 0% to 15% of the volume of the bath obtained.

3. (Original) An aqueous composition for the chemical removal of metallic surfacing present on the blades of turbines comprising at least hexafluorosilicic acid and phosphoric acid in the following concentrations: hexafluorosilicic acid from 156.4 g/l to 292.4 and phosphoric acid from 142.5 g/l to 367.5 g/l.

4. (Original) The aqueous composition according to claim 3, wherein said aqueous composition also comprises hydrochloric acid in a concentration substantially varying from 0 to 48.3 g/l.

5. (Canceled) Use of the aqueous composition according to any of the previous claims for the removal of metallic surfacing on gas turbine blades.

6. (Canceled) Use of the aqueous composition according to claim 2 or 4 for the removal of metallic surfacing comprising nickel and/or oxidized metallic surfacing on gas turbine blades.

7. (Canceled) Use of the aqueous composition according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said composition is used at a temperature ranging from 60°C to 90°C.

8. (Canceled) Use of the aqueous composition according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said composition is used for a time ranging from 4 hours to 15 hours.

9. (New) A method, comprising:
providing an aqueous composition comprising at least hexafluorosilicic acid and phosphoric acid whose final composition corresponds to that which can be obtained by mixing an aqueous solution of hexafluorosilicic acid at about 34% in a quantity varying from 46% to 86% by volume with an aqueous solution of phosphoric acid at about 75% in a quantity varying from 19% to 49% by volume; and
chemically removing a metallic surfacing of a blade of a turbine using the aqueous composition.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the blade is a gas turbine blade.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the metallic surface comprises at least one of nickel or oxidized metallic surfacing on the gas turbine blade, and wherein the method further includes chemically removing the at least one of nickel or oxidized metallic surfacing.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein chemically removing the metallic surfacing comprises applying the aqueous composition to the metallic surfacing of the blade.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein applying the aqueous composition comprises applying the aqueous composition at a temperature approximately ranging from 60°C to 90°C.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein applying the aqueous composition comprises applying the aqueous composition for a time approximately ranging from four hours to fifteen hours.

15. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition also comprises hydrochloric acid in aqueous solution at about 37% added in a quantity substantially varying from 0% to 15% of the volume of the bath obtained.